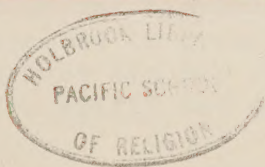


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Religious Liberty Seen Vatican Council Topic

(Rome) - Religious liberty will probably be a major item on the agenda at the forthcoming Second Vatican Council, according to Augustin, Cardinal Bea, president of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

Another major item is likely to be the situation of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, particularly in the light of the application of the Russian Orthodox Church for membership in the World Council of Churches.

Cardinal Bea indicated that the two topics will be under discussion by the Council in a 45-minute interview last week with Dr. Claud D. Nelson, special correspondent for Religious News Service, a US agency.

Dr. Nelson reported that the German-born Cardinal said that even the conservative elements at the Vatican recognize as "a forward step" a December, 1953 address by Pope Pius XII on religious liberty, in which he indicated the necessity and propriety of taking into account the varying religious orientations of the nations.

This step forward, the article quotes the Cardinal as saying, would not be undermined by the Second Vatican Council, nor in general would the Council impede the progress of religious liberty.

The Cardinal noted that some of the most troublesome questions in this area arise in countries long occupied by Catholics and where Protestants are now carrying on vigorous evangelism. He cited particularly Latin America where, he said, since it is recognized that an estimated 70 per cent of the Protestant missionaries working there belong to bodies outside the World Council of Churches, the ecumenical movement has little influence.

He added that a South American prelate had told him recently that in many of these areas, in spite of the hierarchy's good will and correct position, it is not always possible to prevent intolerant manifestations in local parishes where the priest and his flock are perhaps no more under the influence of the ecumenical spirit and discipline than their Protestant neighbours.

Speaking of the Roman Catholic Church's relation to Orthodoxy, the Cardinal said it is still too early to assess its reaction to the application of the Russian Orthodox Church for WCC membership. But, Dr. Nelson wrote, Cardinal Bea "intimated he saw no reason for taking a negative stand. Nor did he appear to question the genuinely religious motivation of Patriarch Alexei of Moscow in making the bid for World Council membership".

Dr. Nelson said that he had earlier been assured by officials of both churches that no conversations, even semi-official ones, are taking place at present between the Vatican and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

He reported Cardinal Bea as saying that he did not anticipate any significant action by the Ecumenical Patriarch until after the meeting of the Pan-Orthodox Synod, now scheduled in September. (See page 4 of this issue.)

The Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity was established by Pope John XXIII in June, 1960 as a means of helping non-Catholic Christians to follow the work of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council so they may "find more easily the path by which they may arrive at that unity for which Jesus Christ prayed..."
EPS, Geneva

Italian Parliament Approves New Bill for Protestant Ministers

(Rome) - The Italian Chamber of Deputies has approved by a large majority a new social security bill for Protestant ministers in Italy. (See EPS No. 20.)

The vote was taken following negotiations between deputies and leaders of the Federal Council of Evangelical Churches in Italy. Council leaders had protested against an earlier bill which would have granted benefits only to those ordained evangelical clergymen in the country who had been granted government approval to celebrate civil marriages. The Council said such a bill would have given the government the right to decide who its ministers are.

The significance of passage of the new bill, according to Council leaders, lies in the fact that it implements constitutional provisions which call for establishment of working agreements between the State and non-Catholic churches for State-Church relations and guarantee the autonomy of these churches in their internal affairs.

The new bill grants all of the requests made by the Federation and includes a statement to the effect that it is only the competent bodies of the different confessions which are entitled to decide who is a minister of the church.

The law will be administered by the Ministry of the Interior in consultation with a committee including four representatives of the Evangelical churches.

EPS, Geneva

CCIA Official Urges Continued US Tests Ban

(Buck Hill Falls, Pa.) - "The United States should not at this time resume nuclear weapons' testing nor should it at this time set a deadline for resumption of tests if agreement is not reached at the Geneva conference", the Rev. Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, has told a meeting here.

Speaking before the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, Dr. Nolde took radical exception to the contention of certain US Senators that the United States should break off negotiations and resume testing because of apparent stalling tactics by the USSR. Dr. Nolde had just returned to the United States from Geneva, Switzerland, where he conferred with the heads of delegations of the United Kingdom, the USSR, and the United States.

Dr. Nolde took issue with the view expressed by the Senators because he anticipated that the problem of a nuclear test ban will be considered at the Vienna Summit Conference between President John F. Kennedy and Premier Nikita Krushchev.

The head of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, joint agency of the International Missionary Council and the World Council of Churches, emphasized four points in setting forth the strategy he believes should now be followed. They are:

"1. The United States should not accept the USSR proposal for a tripartite administration of a test ban, partly because it would project a veto into the treaty administration, but also because of its import for the office of the United Nations Secretary General and for any future arrangements for disarmament. The Russian proposal calls for one representative from each of the so-called Western, Communist, and Neutralist blocs. At the same time, the United States and the United Kingdom should look diligently for alternative plans which will not sacrifice the principle of sufficiently trustworthy inspection but will make it easier for Russia to retreat from its present hard position.

"2. If the USSR withdraws its demand for tripartite administration, the United States and the United Kingdom should be prepared to make further concessions. The United States, in proposals placed before the Geneva Conference when it resumed its session on March 21, yielded on a number of important points. Nevertheless, a flexible position ought to be maintained although the nature of possible accommodation shall be made known only after Russia's position on the tripartite plan has been clearly changed.

"3. If at any time the United States should resume nuclear testing, it should not do so in the field of nuclear weapons but should limit itself in the first instance to underground testing for peaceful uses or for

research in improving methods of detection. The time may come when the United States should resume testing primarily because the continuation of an unverified moratorium on testing could give the USSR an advantage or could set the precedent for disarmament without inspection. In any resumption of testing - and the time has not yet come for it - the United States should be prepared to invite international inspection, including inspection by the USSR, as fully as would have been the case if a treaty had been successfully negotiated.

"4. Whether or not the United States resumes testing, it should not withdraw from the conference table at Geneva. The United States' representative should continue to manifest a readiness for any sound agreement where compliance with its provisions can be reasonably verified, always remembering that fool-proof inspection is not possible."

Contending that these four points represent an application of the position of the World Council of Churches to the present level of negotiation, Dr. Nolde said that action along these lines represented an obligation to humanity as well as a sound strategy in winning support of world public opinion.

EPS, Geneva

Pan-Orthodox Meeting Scheduled in September

(Rhodes) - The first Pan-Orthodox meeting in 30 years will be held in September on the Island of Rhodes. Announcement of plans for the meeting was made last week by the Bishop of Rhodes, Mgr. Spyridon, following a visit with the Ecumenical Patriarch, His All Holiness Athenagoras I, in Istanbul. The final dates have not yet been set. The meeting had twice been postponed earlier. The Orthodox leaders last met officially in 1930 when a Preparatory Prosynod was held at Mount Athos, Greece.

The Bishop said all the autocephalous Orthodox churches have been invited and are expected to attend. These are: the Patriarchates of Constantinople, Alexandria, Jerusalem, Antioch, Serbia, Moscow, Rumania, and the Churches of Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Albania. The Coptic, Armenian and Ethiopian Churches will be invited to send observers.

The announcement said that it has always been the wish of the autocephalous churches to meet together and "renew our fellowship in Christ and the communion of Faith" but that "political hindrances and unfavourable conditions" prevented the meeting. It said the aim of the meeting will not be to solve problems, but to exchange views and make a general survey of the life of the Orthodox churches, particularly with reference to their participation in the ecumenical movement.

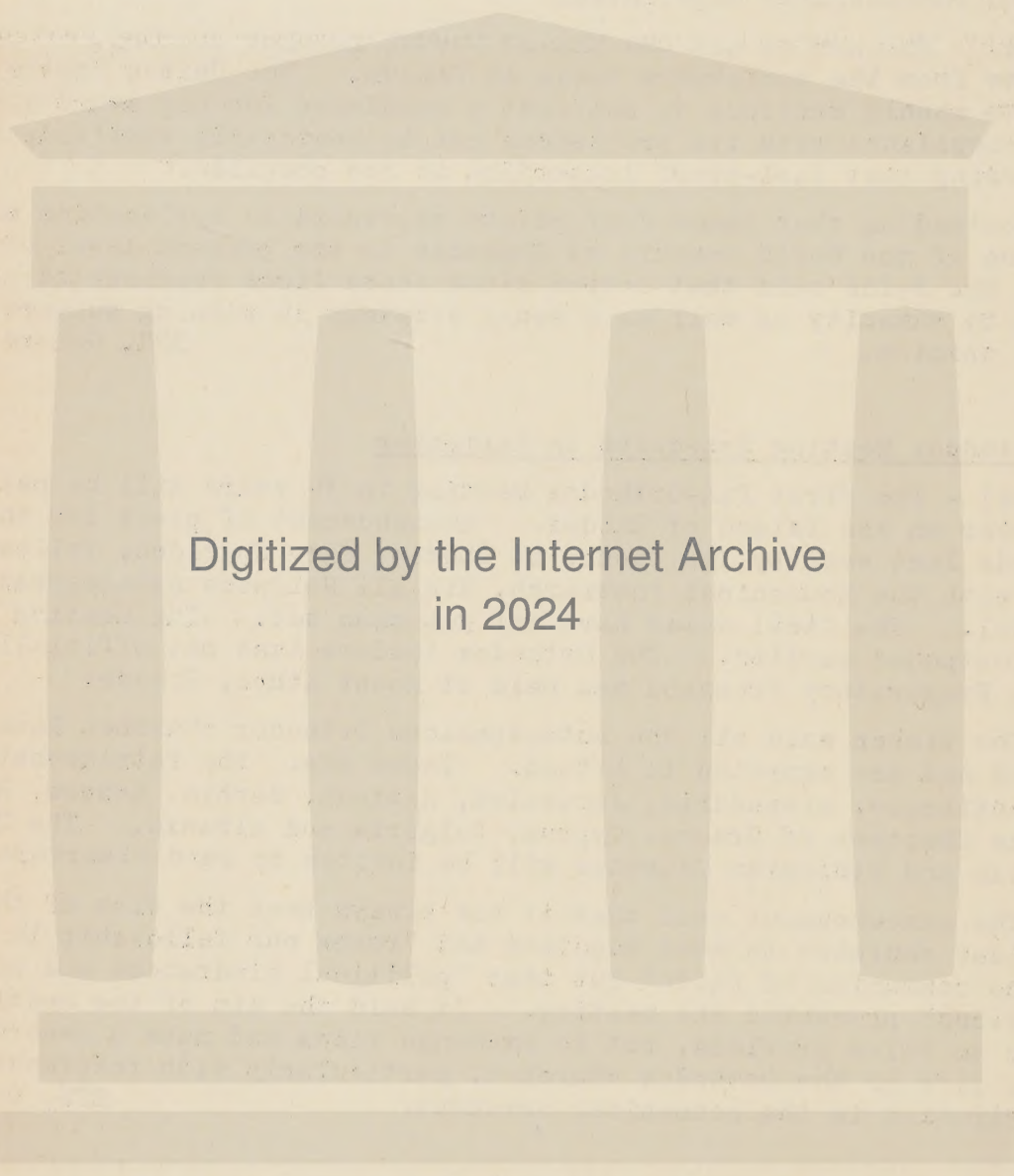
EPS, Geneva

Orthodox Study Plans to Establish Centre Near Athens

(Athens) - Plans to create a Pan-Christian (ecumenical) conference and retreat centre near here, are under study by the Greek Orthodox Church, it has been announced by Theoklitos, the Archbishop of Athens and All Greece.

The Orthodox leader said plans for the centre, which would be available to leaders of all confessions, call for it to be located in a refurbished Byzantine monastery at Hymetus, near Athens. He said such a centre has been made necessary by the growing interest of theologians and leaders of other churches in visiting Greece to see at first hand the life and work of the Orthodox Church.

EPS, Geneva



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Cubans Continue to Stream into Miami

(Miami) - What was expected to be a short-term emergency programme to aid refugees from Cuba is developing into a "long, hard job", says a report this week from Miami, Florida. "New " refugees are thronging into the Cuban Refugee Centre, where the Protestant Latin American Emergency Committee is at work, as each plane from Havana arrives "loaded to the wings".

For the thousands who fled to Florida last winter, says the report from the Rev. Dr. Russell Stevenson, resident director of the Protestant Committee, all hope of returning to a "free" Cuba, which bolstered them so long, has now disappeared. "The abortive invasion attempt and Castro's show of strength have taken care of that."

The "alarming" rate of new arrivals, says his report, has resulted in mushrooming requests for food, clothing and medical supplies from the 11 Protestant centres operating in the city. In one month, 6,000 people received some counsel and material assistance.

New cases are being registered at the centre at the rate of 115 to 125 a day, the report notes, and the emphasis now is on resettlement in other US areas. Close to 300 have now been resettled by Church World Service, relief agency of the National Council of Churches, and by co-operating denominations. EPS, Geneva

Palestinian Refugee Problem Seen No Nearer Solution

(Beirut) - A solution to the problem of the Palestinian refugees "seems as remote now as ever" and church relief efforts "must be seen as mere palliatives, necessary, but not in themselves meeting more than immediate needs", according to a statement of the Triennial Meeting of the Near East Christian Council.

The statement, issued as a Message to the Churches, commends their "generous support" of relief work, which, it says, has helped "make the material lot (of the refugees) more bearable".

But, it said, there have been "thirteen years of lost time for the refugees and for the world which has thus deprived itself of much of the contribution they would normally have been making to its life".

"We again express our hope", it continued, "that the competent authorities will make every effort to see such permanent and constructive solutions as are called for by the continuing plight of this group of over one million men, women and children and that the churches will continue to pray and work for a "Just Solution" leading to the peace and stability of the Holy Land and the neighbouring countries". EPS, Geneva

Finnish Committee Favours Ordination of Women

(Helsinki) - Removal of the legal bars to the ordination of women in the Finnish Lutheran Church will be recommended to the next Church Assembly by a special committee that has been studying the question.

This was revealed here by the semi-weekly Christian paper, Kotimaa, which said the full report of the five-member committee will be published before the end of this year. The quinquennial meeting of the Assembly, the church's supreme legislative body, is scheduled to take place early in 1963.

The last Church Assembly in 1958 failed to give a required three-fourths favourable vote for a previous committee's proposal that women theological graduates be given a special office in the church, with most but not all the privileges of ordained clergy. Instead, the body deferred action and named another committee.

Acceptance of the committee's recommendation would open the door legally for the national church of this country to follow those of three other Northern Countries in admitting women to the ministry. The Danish Church has done so since 1948, but the first women Lutheran pastors were ordained in Sweden only last year, and the first one in Norway in March of this year.

Implementation of the recommendation would require an amendment to existing church law. However, in Finland the Parliament can act on a proposal for church legislation only after the Church Assembly has approved it.

EPS, Geneva

Protestants Given Official Role in Relief Programme for Angola Refugees

(Geneva) - Protestant agencies in the Congo, which were among the first to bring relief to the Bakwanga famine area last year, have been officially invited to share in services for the thousands of refugees from Angola who are now entering the country.

These Protestant agencies have been given responsibility for taking care of 10,000 Angolan refugees at Moerbeke, one of the three main centres around which they are grouped.

So reports the Rev. Ernest Lehman, administrative secretary of the Congo Protestant Relief Agency, Leopoldville, in a letter to the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

Writing to Dr. Leslie Cooke, director of the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, Mr. Lehman says that he was told by telephone that about 10,000 Angolans were concentrated near Kimpangu and that food was urgently needed for them. He said a truck with six and a half tons of food was sent immediately and other shipments by rail are planned.

Distribution of the food is being supervised by a local committee composed of a Protestant deacon, who is an African, several Roman Catholic sisters, and a government official in the town.

A recent Red Cross survey shows there are 20,000 refugees grouped around Songololo, 10,000 in Kimpangu and its neighbourhood, and a further 10,000 near Madimba.

EPS, Geneva

Pamphlet Gives Guides to Christians in East Germany

(Berlin) - The Christian in East Germany "can only accept the fact that he lives in an atheistic state and put up with it; but he must never approve or support it. He should not show political resistance, nor leave the German Democratic Republic (DDR); he should go on living and enduring in Christian faith and patience in the position in which God has placed him."

This is the salient conclusion of a pamphlet published last week by the United Evangelical Church in Germany (VELKD). The church has congregations in Saxony, Thuringia and Mecklenburg in East Germany and in some half dozen areas of the West German Republic.

The pamphlet says that even though East German Protestants are not prevented by their faith from cooperating with the DDR government in social and economic fields, they must reject its atheistic ideology "even if this leads to distress or death".

"In all cases of conflict between the State's demands and God's orders, God's word remains valid that one must obey God rather than men", it declares.

All areas of life become more difficult for a Christian living in an atheistic state, it adds, "because all fields are determined by socialism based on materialism and atheism. For the same reason the Christian education of youth becomes almost hopeless."

However, the statement stresses that, in accordance with Romans, Chapter 13, the Christian must recognize in the government of this "ideological state" an authority which is appointed by God and must be subject to it in the fulfilment of his civic duties.

In practice, it said, this means that it is permissible for Christians in the DDR to cooperate in supporting the state in areas where this is possible "without adopting the ideology of atheism or directly strengthening that ideology".

As an example the pamphlet says a Christian could work in industrial cooperatives, without compromising his faith.

However, it disapproves of participation in "Youth Dedication" ceremonies, the Communist counterpart of Christian confirmation rites, and of "atheist weddings and funerals".

A concluding section notes that the DDR Constitution expressly gives the church the right to express its opinion on questions affecting the life of the nation. "We should all show more courage in doing this than we have done in the past", it says, "purely for the purpose of helping those who bear the responsibility for (the government's) administration".

EPS, Geneva

United Presbyterians Support Protestant Unity Talks

(Buffalo) - The United Presbyterian Church has given its support to a proposal to explore the possibility of the eventual merger of four Protestant denominations into "a united church - truly Catholic, truly Reformed and truly Evangelical".

The proposal, unofficially known as the "Blake Proposal", received almost unanimous approval from the 988 commissioners attending the denomination's 173rd General Assembly here as opposition melted following vigorous debate and solemn prayer. It was first advanced by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, the church's stated clerk (chief executive officer) last December at a service preceding the annual meeting of the National Council of Churches. It has been the subject of widespread debate and discussion ever since.

Commissioners specifically invited the Protestant Episcopal Church "to join with us in an invitation to the Methodist Church and the United Church to explore the establishment" of a united body which would include some 18,000,000 members.

(The Episcopal Church will have an opportunity to act on the invitation at its General Convention this September in Detroit. The Methodist Church cannot vote on the matter until its quadrennial General Conference in 1964. The United Church of Christ could conceivably take action this summer, but this is considered unlikely because it will be involved in the final consolidation of its own body, which was formed by a merger of the Evangelical and Reformed, and Congregational Christian churches.)

Commissioners elected Dr. James I. McCord, president of Princeton Theological Seminary, to head a nine-member committee to enter into the unity discussions. It will probably not hold formal sessions until after the Episcopal Church acts on the matter in September.

Other denominations accepting invitations to participate in the discussions were also asked to establish similar committees. However, the Presbyterian resolution did not specifically limit the invitation to the three other denominations, but rather authorized its representatives "in cooperation with those of the several negotiating churches to invite other churches to appoint representatives, either to join them in the development of the plan or to sit down with them as observers and consultants as they do their work together".

Dr. Blake was instructed to communicate with the Presbyterian Church in the United States (Southern), the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and other groups within the Presbyterian-Reformed tradition expressing a willingness to work together with them toward union.

In introducing the proposal, Dr. J. Charles McKirachan, chairman of General Assembly's Standing Committee on Bills and Overtures, told the commissioners:

"This committee believes God has plans for His Church far beyond our comprehension. We in the United Presbyterian Church...believe in miracles beyond our comprehension. It is in this spirit that we move forward."

The debate which followed was complicated by the introduction of an amendment asking that the participating churches include only those "willing to recognize the others as true churches of Christ possessing a valid ministry". The amendment was aimed at the Episcopal Church which maintains that true validity lies only within the apostolic succession of bishops.

One opponent to the union proposal pointed to the Presbyterian concept of the equality of the ministry, and contended that in the episcopal form of government "the bishop is looked up to more than the ordinary clergyman".

However, Dr. McKirachan pointed out that this issue can be fully discussed before any definite action is taken.

After the debate, the Rev. Frederick W. Cropp of San Marino, California, prayed for divine guidance as the commissioners were about to vote on the proposal:

"Let Thy will be completely regnant. When we vote let us do so as Christians moved by Thy Holy Spirit, as members not of our church, but of Thy Church."

In the voting which followed, only a few scattered "nays" could be heard.

In another action, commissioners elected Paul McKelvey, head of a California real estate management firm, moderator of the General Assembly for the next year. He succeeds the Rev. Herman L. Turner of Atlanta, Georgia.

EPS, Geneva

EMBARGO: For Release AM's Monday,
June 5, 1961.

Rights of Angolans Urged

(Geneva) - Recognition of the legitimate rights of the people of Angola to determine their own political future is called for in a statement issued here today by the officers of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a joint agency of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

The statement expresses concern over "the serious conditions" in Angola and says that "administering authorities should take reasonable risks in speeding progress" towards Angolan self-government or independence.

Further, it says, "Christian concern for the worth of man involves insistence on respect for the Rule of Law" including "freedom from arbitrary arrest, an independent judiciary and public trial and the right of habeas corpus and all that is involved in equality before the law for all persons and all communities".

The statement came in the midst of reports of increasing violence and bloodshed in the troubled African country.

The statement was based on statements issued earlier by the World Council of Churches and the Commission. It was signed by Sir Kenneth Grubb, London, CCIA chairman; and Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, New York, Commission chairman.

(See Document appended for complete text of statement.) EPS, Geneva

Churches' Role in Nation Building Studied

(Geneva) - The Church is faced with the task of making clear and sharp the issues involved in the crucial choices open to the new states of Africa and Asia as they begin the job of building their own independent nations.

This conclusion was reached at a consultation on nation building and international responsibility held at the World Council of Churches' Institute of Ecumenical Studies at Bossey, near Geneva.

However, participants attending the conference from Europe, Africa and Asia agreed that, while the Church should help these nations understand the alternatives open to them, it should be careful not to make choices for them.

The consultation, called at the request of the churches in Africa, brought together more than 30 sociologists, economists, political and religious leaders, trade union spokesmen, as well as experts in law, administration and education. The report of the consultation will now go to all member churches of the WCC.

Among the topics discussed at the sessions were the churches' position toward polygamy, the problem of tribal conflicts in Africa, and their attitude in the past in discouraging tribal culture.

The consultation also raised the following questions: (1) Is it possible for these new nations to be governed by more than one political party? (2) Is the parliamentary system feasible for them? (3) To what point should the economy be nationalized?

Participants agreed that it would be disastrous if the big power blocs were involved in shaping the economy of these new states in the post-colonial period.

While the problem of nation building is most critical in Africa, participants noted that other countries have also been forced by the pace of recent events radically to reconsider their relationships to Africa and Asia in the post-colonial world.

Regret was expressed at the conclusion of the conference that the churches and individual Christians have not taken seriously their responsibility to assist in nation building. Participants noted that they must be continuously challenged to meet these responsibilities in the future.

The consultation drew much from previous ecumenical studies of the problem. The WCC's Department on Church and Society is engaged in a systematic study of the problems of rapid social change. Reports on the first four years of this study (1955-59) were given at the International Conference at Thessaloniki.

EPS, Geneva

Kenya Church Leaders Favour Kenyatta's Release

(Nairobi) - Christian leaders of Kenya have said they "welcome the news that Mr. Jomo Kenyatta will be among us as soon as possible".

They made the comment in a statement issued following a meeting last week with the Governor of Kenya to discuss the political situation of the country.

The comment was one of the first indications that the Kenya government is considering release of the Mau Mau leader who was arrested at the height of the Emergency.

The church leaders said they told the Governor that although Christians suffered greatly and were persecuted during the Mau Mau Emergency period, they have "forgiven the past and want to enter into the new Kenya with an open declaration that (they) harbour no resentment in (their) hearts for what is past".

They said they have plans to visit Mr. Kenyatta in prison in the near future.

The church leaders represented the African Church Leaders' Conference, a group convened by the Christian Council of Kenya, and the Council itself.

Their statement said that they had expressed to the Governor their concern at the suggestion that the present lawlessness was similar to the situation prevailing before the Mau Mau Emergency. "At that time", they told him, "people everywhere had a generally aggressive attitude; today they are friendly. Then they had no hope; now they are full of expectation. The present lawlessness has basic economic roots and it would be

wrong to compare it with what happened before and during the Mau Mau Emergency.

The delegation included the Rt. Rev. O. Kariuki, Anglican Bishop of Fort Hall; the Rev. P.D. Fueter, general secretary of the Christian Council of Kenya; and the Rev. John Gatu, Mr. T. Lung'aho and Mr. P. Thande.

EPS, Geneva

Prayers Urged for Eichmann

(Elgin, Ill.) - The Gospel Messenger, official publication of the Church of the Brethren (USA), has called upon Christians to "pray for the soul of Adolf Eichmann".

A lead editorial in the most recent issue declared that while prayers should be offered for the victims of persecution, "it is even more important to pray for those who are responsible for persecution". It said:

"If we who call ourselves Christian are to respond in this spirit (the spirit of another Jew who was crucified by his own people) we must be ready to pray for the soul of Adolf Eichmann, just as we pray for all who stand under the judgement of a righteous God, and for everyone among the persecutors and the persecuted who knows his own guilt and his need of God's grace."

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

Representatives of US Protestant, Catholic and Jewish agencies have asked the US Congress to extend for another five years the programme under which surplus agricultural commodities are made available to them for shipment to overseas needy. They also asked for an increase in the amount of commodities made available and for funds to help the agencies meet inland transportation costs in receiving countries.

* * *

The United Lutheran Church in America has announced ratification of a plan to merge with three other Lutheran bodies in order to form the 3,200,000-member Lutheran Church in America. Ratification became effective last week when the Texas-Louisiana Synod voted approval of the move, thus becoming the 22nd synod to approve, and providing the necessary two-thirds vote required to implement merger plans.

* * *

The question of inter-communion at ecumenical gatherings will be discussed by the 25-member Working Committee of the Commission of Faith and Order when it meets June 16-19 in Geneva. The World Council of Churches' Commission will also discuss regional developments in faith and order, and will lay plans for a proposed World Faith and Order Conference in 1963. The Rt. Rev. Oliver Tompkins, Anglican Bishop of Bristol, England, is Commission chairman.

EPS, Geneva

A Special Report

"Freedom Riders" Face Mobs in Segregated South

(Montgomery, Alabama) - New waves of "Freedom Riders" into the segregated South have been promised by determined integration leaders in spite of mob violence, scores of arrests, and the Federal Government's plea for a "cooling-off" period.

In fact, Negro leaders have indicated that they plan to extend their drive to abolish in practice what the Federal courts have abolished by legal rulings dating back to 1954 - segregated facilities in many areas of the South. Current aim is an end to segregated public transportation.

"There can be no cooling-off period in the effort to obtain one's citizenship rights", said Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. "The effort must go on continuously by all feasible methods."

Despite the violence which has greeted them, the "Freedom Riders" themselves appear even more determined to step up their campaign. One victim, a white student at Fisk University in Nashville, made this clear from his hospital bed.

The student, James W. Zwerg, insisted that the "Freedom Riders" were not "martyrs or publicity-seekers", but are only seeking "equality and justice - and we will get it".

"We will continue our journey one way or another and we are prepared to die", he promised. "From here we go to Jackson, and then on to New Orleans."

"They may try to stop us, attack and maybe bomb us, but we're ready for anything now."

The most conspicuous action illustrating Christian concern in the present crisis was perhaps taken by four white theologians who were arrested along with three Negro students after riding into riot-shaken Montgomery in an integrated bus and seeking service at a "white" lunch counter.

Heading the group was the Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr., chaplain of Yale University, who later returned to the campus in New Haven, Connecticut, after posting bail on a charge of breach of the peace.

Arrested with Mr. Coffin were the Rev. Gaylord Noyce of Yale Divinity School, and Dr. John Maguire and Dr. David Swift, both on the theological faculty at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. All are distinguished in their fields and are members of Phi Beta Kappa honorary society.

There were no incidents when the group boarded a bus in Atlanta, but more than 100 National Guardsmen - troops at the disposal of the state - and police were on hand when they arrived in Montgomery. The group, which had planned to travel on to Jackson, Mississippi, was arrested when members sought service at the segregated lunch counter used by two groups of "Freedom Riders" who preceded them to Jackson a day earlier.

Upon his return to New Haven, Mr. Coffin told an overflow congregation in the Yale chapel that the Attorney General's office had tried to dissuade him and his fellow "Freedom Riders" from making their trip into the deep South.

"People in high places in the Attorney General's office did ask us - most circumspectly - to reconsider our decision to make the trip", he said. "As you know, of course, we did not."

Meanwhile, Dr. Roy G. Ross, general secretary of the National Council of Churches (USA), commended Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy for "courageous and forthright action in dealing with the mob violence in Montgomery" after "the failure of local police to deal with...violations of basic human rights guaranteed by our laws".

Similar concern over the violence which has flared in Alabama was expressed by the Rev. John W. Thomas, executive secretary of the Council on Christian Social Progress of the American Baptist Convention. He charged that this lawlessness received strength from "some persons in high places and by the timid silence of many good people who allowed this to go unopposed".

The noted Negro leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia, placed the blame for the outbreaks "at the doorstep of the Governor of this state".

Dr. King charged that Governor John Patterson had "created the atmosphere in which violence could thrive" by "his consistent preaching of defiance of the law, his vitriolic public pronouncements and his irresponsible actions".

Coming here from Atlanta to take charge of the "Freedom Riders" battle against segregation, Dr. King also disclosed that student "Freedom Riders" would be instructed in the "philosophy and techniques" of non-violent action by the Rev. James Morris Lawson, Jr.

Mr. Lawson, a member of the staff of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was expelled from the Divinity School of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, a year ago after taking part in some of the first lunch counter sit-in demonstrations. At the time, faculty supporters charged that his dismissal was a breach of academic freedom.

The "Freedom Riders" campaign began initially as an enterprise sponsored and financed by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), a passive-resistance organization with headquarters in New York and dedicated to breaking down southern racial barriers.

CORE, which is principally under Negro leadership, instructs its volunteers to meet violence without fighting back. In the past, it has organized sit-in demonstrations at southern lunch counters and the picketing of other segregated public places such as hotels and theatres. However, the group's latest attack against discrimination set off the nation's most serious racial conflict since violence erupted in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957.

In the latest crisis, a Negro integration leader was shot in the wrist by a group of teen-agers in a passing car. Another group of white youths poured gasoline on a Negro and set him on fire. And a white woman held up her child so he could reach out and pound a passing Negro with his fists.

But the violence didn't end there. Some 1,500 Negroes were forced to remain in a Montgomery church all night after a howling white mob of 1,200 to 1,500 persons attempted to invade the building. Only the arrival of some 100 US marshals, armed with tear gas and riot clubs, held back the mob.

The marshals, under the jurisdiction of the US Department of Justice, were virtually alone for about an hour before the arrival of police and National Guardsmen. The troops eventually succeeded in evacuating the Negroes from the church about daybreak.

The National Guardsmen were sent to the scene with fixed bayonets after Governor Patterson decided to proclaim martial law. However, the Governor, who earlier declared that he could not "guarantee protection for this bunch of rabble-rousers", said in his proclamation that the "Freedom Riders" were responsible for the rioting.

One of the most severe instances of violence occurred earlier last month when 13 men and women aboard two buses were pursued by cars after they reached the Alabama border. The rioters caught up with them outside Anniston, and hurled an incendiary bomb through a broken window of one bus, filling it with black, acrid smoke.

With no chance of survival inside, the "Freedom Riders" emerged from the bus only to be set upon by the waiting mob. Similar treatment was given to those in the second bus until police broke up the brawl. Further violence awaited them in Birmingham where a mob had gathered armed with blackjacks and lengths of pipe.

The "Freedom Riders" are not the only ones who have met with violence and intimidation. John Seigenthaler, a special representative of President Kennedy, was beaten unconscious during one bus station outbreak.

In spite of the latest violence, the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, found some comfort in the fact that such incidents show that segregationist ideas are rapidly losing ground in the South.

"It is a fact", said the newspaper, "that the movement for integration and racial equality between whites and blacks is spreading in the United States with resolute and uncheckable vigour".

Such a view received support in the midst of the current racial crisis when a group of white clergymen in Birmingham, Alabama, met recently and pledged themselves to "make efforts to re-establish better communications between the races" in that restless city.

The group, representing the Protestant, Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Jewish faiths, called upon all churches in Birmingham to set aside Sunday, May 28, as "a solemn day of prayer for all people".

Obviously referring to the latest acts of violence in Alabama, the clergymen added: "No one of us is free from guilt. We confess to God our Father our failures to say and do that which is right."

Another encouraging sign was evident Monday when an integrated bus carrying other than "Freedom Riders" travelled over its regular route and picked up and discharged passengers without incident. One white woman who travelled from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama, seated next to a young Negro "Freedom Rider", remarked: "I didn't like it, but I didn't want to stand up...I just have trouble getting used to it."

EPS, Geneva

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Statement on Angola Issued by Officers of
The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Many churches and individual Christians are alarmed by the serious conditions which have developed in Angola. The reports of wanton destruction of human life and the accompanying violation of essential human rights have shocked world public opinion. There is indeed danger that the situation will further deteriorate if justice is not wisely served. In these circumstances we as officers of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs would be failing in our duty if we remained silent. We therefore call attention to certain general statements which have been made on several occasions by the World Council of Churches and our Commission, and we suggest that they are immediately relevant to Angola. We express the hope that action along these lines will be promptly initiated.

In face of any refusal to recognize for the people of Angola the right to determine their own political future, we say: "The legitimate right of the self-determination of peoples must be recognized. Specific assurance of independence or self-government should be given and administering authorities should take reasonable risks in speeding progress towards this goal".

In face of every failure to build the competence necessary for independence or self-government, we say: "When nations are still subject to minority or foreign rule, they must be allowed to move swiftly but with adequate preparation to a form of government in which persons of whatever racial background have their rightful place".

In face of reported violence, compounded in its severity by acts of retribution, we say to all involved and especially to those who have been party to terrorism and murder: "Christian concern for the worth of man involves insistence on respect for the Rule of Law, as essential to a just society. This includes freedom from arbitrary arrest, an independent judiciary and public trial, the right of habeas corpus and all that is involved in equality before the law for all persons **and** all communities".

Sir Kenneth Grubb, Chairman

Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Director

June 5, 1961

